

THE FLAME SHOULDER: OCHROPLEURA PLECTA (L.) IN NOVEMBER.—A specimen of this noctuid in good condition was attracted to my m.v. trap at Pont-a-dulas near Built Wells, Breconshire, on the night of 1st November 1978, an extraordinarily late date.—DR. H. G. PARKER, 2 Oaks Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

LITHOPHANE LEAUTIERI BOISD. IN WARWICKSHIRE.—This rapidly spreading species made its first appearance in Warwickshire when a specimen was found in my garden m.v. trap on the morning of 9th October 1978.—D. C. G. BROWN, Jacksons Farmhouse, 25 Charlcote, near Warwick.

THE VESTAL (RHODOMETRA SACRARIA L.) IN INVERNESSSHIRE.—When sorting and listing the Rothamsted Insect Trap catches from the Forestry Commission Research Station, Fort Augustus, I found a specimen of the Vestal in the box for 10th October 1978. I do not know whether or not the moth has been recorded from so far north before, but in any case it must be sufficiently rare from such a high latitude as to be worth noting. It is a male and exceptionally large, 27 mm. wingspan.—T. C. DUNN, The Poplars, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham.

Practical Hints—March & April

The Orange Underwings — *Archiearis parthenias* L. and *A. notha* Hbn.—are usually the quarryies of the first active daytime collecting of the season. A warm, sunny morning at the end of March is often good for both species, but *notha* is usually a week later than *parthenias*, with the two overlapping and *notha* continuing into the first week of April. Choose the edge of, or rides in, a fairly mature birch wood for the former, and a wood containing plenty of tallish aspen for the latter, and start operations about 10 a.m. In sunny conditions, the moths sit on bare patches of ground or dead leaves, but get up sharply on one's approach, and have a very erratic flight, making them difficult to net. One rarely gets a second chance before they are out of reach and fly up to the tree tops. If the presence of the species is not known in the locality proposed to be worked, carry out a preliminary reconnaissance on a sunny afternoon, when the moths (if any) will easily be seen flying round the tops of the trees. Both species are partial to sallow catkins, but a net on a stick is usually necessary to reach them, and one strike will scare off any others on the bush. During dull weather the moths may sometimes be shaken from smallish trees. Up till about 1 p.m. the moths are usually within reach, but later they fly high round the tree tops in a most tantalising manner (POOLES).

In April examine any stumps found in marshy areas where *Salix viminalis* occurs. A flat-topped two year old stump is an ideal oviposition site for *Conopia formicaeformis* Esp. Carefully peel back the bark and if a whitish larva is found